

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No. 09/244,419
Attorney Docket No. Q53219

REMARKS

Applicant adds new claims 15 and 16 herein. Therefore, by this Amendment, claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1-14 have been examined and claim 11 is allowed. However, claims 1-10 and 12-14 are rejected. Specifically, claims 1-10 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Baran, U.S. Patent No. 5,247,591 (hereinafter "Baran"). Claims 1-8 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ogaki et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,819,049 (hereinafter "Ogaki"). Additionally, claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Baran in view of newly cited Geshwind, WIPO Publication No. WO 96/41463 (hereinafter "Geshwind").

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the rejections of claims 1-10 and 12-14 for the reasons set forth in Applicant's Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on November 20, 2003.

Additionally, by way of example and not by way of limitation, claim 1 recites "an image identifying server for identifying the species of the operation document image to retrieve the species stored in the workflow control table in response to the identified species, to automatically recognize the corresponding destination and operation, and to transmit a recognized result together with the operation document image to the network".

The image workflow system of claim 1 automatically recognizes both a destination (of the operation document image) and an operation to be handled (for the operation document image), in addition to a species of the operation document image. For example, this recognition of the operation is executed on the basis of an operation code assigned to each operation

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document image and serves to activate a program corresponding to the operation code (*see, e.g.* Applicant's specification: page 7, lines 8-13).

Based on the operation code, an appropriate program can be automatically activated on a destination side and the operation can be started quickly and easily on the destination side (*see also* claim 8).

Baran and Ogaki both fail to disclose or suggest recognizing an operation to be handled by an operation document image on a destination side and thus do not anticipate claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Baran and Ogaki. Claims 12 and 13 are patentable for reasons similar to those set forth above for claim 1. Furthermore, claims 2-10 and 14 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Additionally, Applicant adds new claims 15 and 16. Claim 15 is patentable for reasons similar to those set forth above for claim 1. Claim 16 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency and based on a rationale analogous to the Examiner's reasons for allowing claim 11.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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